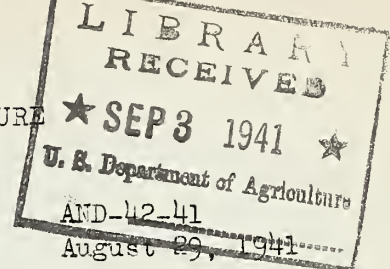


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information



PART I - ~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

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AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

SUMMARY OF CABLES ON FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS: UNITED KINGDOM: The Ministry of Food announced that the policy of requiring both wholesale and retail food traders to be licensed had been extended in order to strengthen the Ministry's powers in dealing with various abuses. Licenses will be withdrawn from any trader guilty of conduct rendering him an unsuitable link in food distribution chain.

FRANCE: The Ministry of Agriculture in Vichy reports crop prospects in all of France (except Moselle, Bas Rhin and Haute Rhin) as follows: winter grain crops (wheat, rye, barley, maslin and oats) were damaged by persistent rains during harvesting. The same factor has affected spring seeded grains. The damage from rain was accentuated by reason of the fact that the harvesting period had to be extended due to the shortage of binder twine. The condition of the potato crop is unsatisfactory due to planting of unselected seed, unfavorable weather conditions, insect damage, and disease. A fairly good crop of sugar beets is expected. Fruit crop prospects are extremely unfavorable. Supplies of copper sulphate are exhausted and unless large quantities can be obtained, there will be danger of widespread deterioration of French vines next year. The hay crop is estimated at less than average but of good quality. Shortages in concentrated feedstuffs have resulted in declining sheep and hog numbers. Other livestock numbers, however, are now reported as showing no appreciable reduction from pre-war levels due to the tendency of farmers to keep such animals in order to build up their herds.

With reference to the Ministry's statement concerning livestock numbers, information from reliable sources throughout France indicates that there has been, since the last census, a further reduction in the number of dairy cows and beef cattle. The reduction is attributed to a lack of feedstuffs and to requisitions by the Ministry of Supplies and by the authorities of occupation in both the occupied and unoccupied zones.

Fixed prices for wheat, rye, oats, barley, and buckwheat were increased in unoccupied France. In addition, producers were assured of a premium for wheat deliveries made before a date to be specified. Bread prices were fixed at levels below those warranted by the fixed wheat price. The difference between the price of wheat and that of bread is to be offset by a compensating indemnity to be paid by the Government.

CHINA: The 1941 wheat crop of all China is tentatively estimated by the American Agricultural Attaché in Shanghai at 720,000,000 bushels compared with 700,000,000 bushels in 1940. A recent breakdown of Chinese and Japanese estimates of anticipated production according to existing political regions indicated a crop of 693,000,000 bushels as follows:

Free China	358,500,000
Occupied North China	196,600,000
Occupied Central China	135,700,000
New Mongolian Regime	2,300,000
	<hr/> 693,100,000

MANCHURIA: With the exception of rice, which was damaged by insects, the 1941 wheat and other grain crops are reported as surpassing those of 1940 both in quality and quantity. Authorities are predicting a substantial increase in Manchurian grain exports to Japan and North China during 1941-42.

RUSSIA: Excellent harvests of most crops, especially grain, are reported from nearly all districts of the country. Difficulties arising from wartime conditions are reported as having been overcome. Tractor drivers and combine operators called to the colors were replaced during harvesting by women and city workers. As a result harvesting was completed in many southern districts much earlier than last year. The reaping and threshing of grain is reported as proceeding successfully in the central and eastern sections of the country. Farmers are being urged to expand their sowing of winter grains especially in the southeastern areas of European Russia and in Siberia.

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS: The shortage of food in the Cape Verde Islands (Portuguese) is stringent. Owing to the lack of rain and the Government's inability to import sufficient quantities of flour and rice, the native population is starving. Also the defense troops are dependent upon locally raised foodstuffs. No food reserve has been maintained. A two-weeks' trade blockade would mean famine and the blockader would hold the islands at his mercy.

EGYPT: The Cairo press has recently contained articles stating that comparatively large quantities of Egyptian cotton ordered by Japan have been lying in Egyptian ports for a long time owing to the lack of vessels. The British, for obvious reasons, have prevented Egyptian vessels from proceeding to Japan for about a year.

TURKEY: All grain crops, except corn, will be much below those of 1940, and there will be little or no export surplus. The filbert crop will be much below normal. Fig and raisin crops, however, are reported as excellent.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information

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August 29, 1941

PART II - FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEFENSE CONFERENCES CALLED: Dates are set for four regional agricultural defense conferences at which time national production goals for 1942 will be discussed. Indications now point to greatly increased demand for many commodities. Retention of acreage controls on others.

Time and place of the meetings are as follows:

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Sept. 15 and 16, for Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, and New Mexico.

CHICAGO, Ill., Sept. 18 and 19, for North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y., Sept. 24 and 25, for Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, and West Virginia.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept. 29 and 30, for Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

SECRETARY WICKARD WILL ATTEND EACH OF THE CONFERENCES. Taking part will be members of the State USDA Defense Boards, members of the State Land Use Committees, State representatives of the national farm organizations, representatives of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and State Extension Services.

PRODUCTION GOALS will be based on needs for domestic consumption, regular exports, exports under Lend Lease, and in some cases, upon building up stockpiles. Items 1 and 3 are most important.

PRIORITY RATINGS ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK ON FARM MACHINERY and replacement parts are stop gaps until production goals are set. New requests will be based on needs to meet goals. Also USDA Defense Boards are now conducting a survey of machinery and replacement parts needs which will be available by the time goals are announced.

OPM IS ASKING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE for assistance in getting iron and steel scrap out of farm junk piles. Needs for scrap critical to keep defense production up. Drive on now to clean up all old auto junk piles. Henderson called scrap dealers in this week. Warned them about price ceilings. Doesn't intend to allow a price boom. Dealers getting in line. Plans are being discussed between OPM and Department as to the USDA Defense Boards lending their assistance in moving farm scrap.

THE PRESIDENT THIS WEEK SIGNED A PROCLAMATION making subject to export control "all military equipment or munitions or component parts thereof, or machinery, tools, or materials, or supplies necessary for the manufacture, servicing, or operation thereof, which had not been made subject to such control under previous proclamations."

This blanket order includes practically all agricultural products that are exported. The State Department says that general licenses will be issued covering the exportations of these commodities from the United States, its territories and possessions, with the exception of the Philippines. Practical effect of the proclamation is that free movement of the commodities will remain unhampered, but will limit the export and re-export of such goods from the Philippines.

